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Letter dated 7 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 September 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the perpetration of a new crime against civilian installations by United States and British aircraft, which, on 30 August 2001, bombarded Basrah International Airport's radar apparatus used for the landing and take-off of civilian aircraft. They also bombarded Iraqi villages in Dhi Qar governorate, killing or wounding a number of civilians.

While Mr. Naji Sabri, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stresses that the people of Iraq adheres to its legitimate right to protect its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity against aggression, he hopes that you will make a positive response by performing the duties assigned to you under the Charter of the United Nations in order to put a halt to this unjustified aggression and ensure that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-53419 (E) 130901 130901

Annex to the letter dated 7 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that United States and British aircraft have perpetrated a new crime against civilian installations. At 1742 hours on 30 August 2001, the attacking aircraft bombarded Basrah International Airport radar apparatus used for the landing and take-off of civilian aircraft, and this attack caused one Iraqi casualty. On the same day, United States and British aircraft also bombarded a village in Dhi Qar governorate in southern Iraq, causing the death of three Iraqi citizens and the wounding of 15 others.

These blatant acts of aggression reaffirm United States and British disdain for the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the position of the international community, both States and international organizations, as expressed in numerous declarations and statements, all of them affirming that the imposition of the two no-flight zones is a unilateral decision to use force against an independent State, i.e. that it is blatant military aggression requiring United Nations intervention to halt it and to call its perpetrators to account.

It is a cause for amazement and censure at the same time that major officials in the United States administration regard the continuation of aerial bombardment of civilian sites and the infrastructure in Iraq as a response to what they call "provocation" by Iraqi defence forces performing their legitimate duty and right to defend the homeland.

This logic is such as to move the international community to substitute the law of the jungle for international law, treaties, custom and covenants regulating international relations, including the Charter of the United Nations, which affirms respect for the sovereignty of States and their legitimate right to defend themselves, while rejecting the logic of aggression and the use of brute force in international relations.

The continuation of the current situation, where the United States and the United Kingdom are exercising brute force and perpetrating daily aggression against Iraq without any deterrent, requires you to adopt a clear and decisive position in condemning this aggression, calling for an immediate halt to it and placing full responsibility on those committing it.

Awaiting a positive reply from you, I wish to emphasize that the people of Iraq, with its extensive history and culture, with its absolute dedication to its legitimate right to protect its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and to resist aggression and aggressors, in expression of its free national will, and with the support which it receives from the Arab nations and the peoples of the world, will be victorious over this aggression. What we hope of you is that you will uphold the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of justice and right against brute force acting with the ultimate recklessness, irresponsibility and disregard for all the values and laws regulating relations between States and nations.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs